

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 201030Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3774

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0114

EXDIS

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LU

SUBJ: WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE: ORGANIZING MEETING
OF COORDINATING GROUP

REF: STATE 32421

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER OBSERVED THAT DATES FOR
PROPOSED FIRST MEETING OF COORDINATING GROUP DID NOT
GIVE EC TIME TO COORDINATE ITS OWN POSITIONS, OR MAKE
EFFORT TO CONVINCE FRANCE TO PARTICIPATE HERSELF OR
THROUGH EC COMMISSION. THORN ALSO BELIEVES THAT FIRST
COORDINATING GROUP MEETING SHOULD NOT BE IN WASHINGTON.
HE STRESSED NEED FOR EC TO MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO INTRO-
DUCE FLEXIBILITY INTO FRENCH POSITION, ALTHOUGH HE WAS
PESSIMISTIC ON LIKELIHOOD OF POSITIVE RESULTS IN NEAR
CONFIDENTIAL

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FUTURE. HE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT US FIRST CONSULT
INFORMALLY WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL ON COORDINA-
TING GROUP AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. ON LATE FEBRUARY 19, I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER THORN TO CONVEY POINTS IN REFTEL. THORN BEGAN BY GIVING ME WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "BACKGROUND" TO HIS ANSWERS TO THE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS I MADE. THORN SAID THAT THE US SHOULD KNOW THAT SOME EUROPEANS ARE PLEASED THAT THE INTRA-EC DISAGREEMENTS CAME TO A HEAD IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT THE DISSENSIONS MAY EVENTUALLY PRODUCE A STRENGTHENED EC. HOWEVER, THE EC IS UNANIMOUS IN RESISTING ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE US TO FURTHER DIVIDE THE COMMUNITY. THORN ADDED THAT THIS MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY WAS CONSIDERED BY SOME OF HIS EC COLLEAGUES (ALTHOUGH NOT HIMSELF) AS AN ATTEMPT TO PUSH THE EC TOO FAR AND TOO FAST.

2. THIS SAID, THORN GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING REACTIONS TO THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE: FIRST, THE GOL AND MOST OF LUXEMBOURG'S EC PARTNERS WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDER THAT THE DATES OF FEBRUARY 25-26 ARE TOO SOON FOR A FIRST MEETING OF THE COORDINATING GROUP BECAUSE THE EC COULD NOT CONSULT ADEQUATELY BEFOREHAND. THORN SAID THAT THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MIGHT MEET IN BONN LATER THIS WEEK TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO RESTORE SOME LIFE TO EC POLITICAL COORDINATION AFTER THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. ON MARCH 4 THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD PROBABLY MEET TO FURTHER DISCUSS POLITICAL COORDINATION AMONG THE NINE. DURING THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, AN EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO CONVINCE THE FRENCH TO ATTEND THE COORDINATING GROUP MEETING. THORN HERE STRESSED THAT THIS EFFORT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE. ALTHOUGH THORN HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT FRANCE WOULD ATTEND THE FIRST COORDINATING GROUP MEETING, AND CONFIDED THAT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHOM HE HAD SEEN JUST BEFORE ME CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS "INCONCEIVABLE" THAT FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE, HE EMPHASIZED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR THE COMMUNITY TO TRY TO BRING THE FRENCH BACK INTO THE FOLD. IF, AFTER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MARCH 4 MEETING, AND AS THORN EXPECTS, FRANCE STILL RESISTS PARTICIPATION, THEN THE COMMUNITY WOULD ASK PARIS TO AGREE TO BE REPRESENTED BY THE EC COMMISSION IN THE COORDINATING GROUP. IF PARIS AGAIN REFUSES, THEN THE EIGHT WILL REACH A COMMON POSITION AMONG THEMSELVES WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED IN THE COORDINATING GROUP. THEREAFTER, THE EC EIGHT WOULD SIMPLY KEEP FRANCE INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COORDINATING GROUP, UNDER THE COMMUNITY'S "INFORMATION SHARING" PROCEDURES. THORN ADDED THAT IF NEITHER FRANCE NOR THE EC COMMISSION WERE PRESENT AT THE COORDINATING GROUP MEETING, HE WOULD PROPOSE HAVING THE EC EIGHT REPRESENTED BY THE OFFICIALS WHO REPRESENT THEM IN THE EC'S OWN HIGH ENERGY COMMITTEE, SO THAT A

LINK WITH THE EC IS STILL RETAINED. THORN ARGUED THAT THIS CAREFUL SCENARIO WAS NECESSARY IF THE COMMUNITY IS TO RETAIN SOLIDARITY EVEN AMONG THE EIGHT MEMBERS WHO SUBSCRIBED TO ALL THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE.

3. THORN SAID HE ALSO DISAPPROVED OF THE SUGGESTION THAT THE FIRST COORDINATING GROUP MEETING BE HELD IN WASHINGTON. IT WAS UNWISE TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION TO THE FRENCH AND THE ARABS THAT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE HAS BECOME INSTITUTIONALIZED. FROM BRIEF SOUNDINGS IN SEVERAL CAPITALS, THORN SAID THAT HE DETECTED A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN THE EC'S PROPOSING EITHER BRUSSELS OR LONDON FO

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